REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 16-23. Accordingly, claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 16-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 16-23 to be directed toward statutory subject matter.

In regards to claims 24-32, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Applicant is claiming an Attribute Provider hosting a user's attribute. The Attribute Provide does provide a functional description of a device. In this case, the device is the Attribute Provider which includes several components, specifically: a first output unit for accessing the Discovery Service Framework to register an attribute offering; a first input unit for processing a request received from an Attribute Requestor for the attribute offering; a second output unit for providing the attribute offering to the Attribute Requestor; a third output unit for accessing the Discovery Service Framework to register an offering registration trigger; and a second input unit for processing a request received from the Discovery Service Framework for registration of an attribute offering. All of these components are directed towards statutory matter and should be allowable under 35 U.S.C. 101. Therefore, the allowance of claims 16-32 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14, 16-22, 24-27, and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blakley, III et al (US Pub. No. 2004/0128378) hereinafter referred to as Blakely. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

It is important to remember that anticipation requires that the disclosure of a single piece of prior art reveals <u>every</u> element, or limitation, of a claimed invention. Furthermore, the limitation that must be met by an anticipatory reference are those set forth in each statement of function in a claims limitation, and such a limitation cannot be met by an element in a reference that performs a different function, even though it may be part of a device embodying the same general overall concept. Blakley fails to anticipate each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated.

Claim 1 recites:

1. (Original) A method of handling user's attributes sharing between a plurality of Service Providers, a Service Provider being regarded as an Attribute Provider hosting at least one user's attribute for a user and offering such attribute for sharing with other Service Providers regarded as Attribute Requestors, an attribute offering being published in a Discovery Service Framework suitable for holding attribute offerings from at least one Attribute Provider and for providing any of such attribute offerings to at least one Attribute Requestor, the method comprising the steps of:
the <u>Attribute Provider registering an offering registration trigger in **the Discovery Service Framework**</u> intended to request, if needed, the registration of the attribute offering;
the <u>Attribute Provider receiving from **the Discovery Service Framework** a request for registration</u> of the attribute offering;
the Attribute Provider <u>registering an attribute offering in **the Discovery Service Framework**</u>; and
the Attribute Provider providing the attribute upon request from an Attribute Requestor. (emphasis added)

To better understand the Applicant's invention, prior to explaining the differences of the Applicant's invention from Blakley, a discussion of the entities and terminology used in the Applicant's invention will now be set forth. The Applicant's invention, as well as LAP ID-WSF technical specifications, discloses a <u>Discovery Service</u> as an entity where each service provider hosting user's attributes registers a reference to each attributer, called a resource offering, and from where other service providers retrieve such resource offering for further accessing the attribute (see paragraph 0017 of the Applicant's specification). In addition, a service provider carrying out the registration of a resource offering is designated as an "attribute provider" whereas any service provider retrieving such resource offering is designated as an "attribute requestor".

Conventionally, a reference to the attribute (i.e., a resource offering or attribute offering) is registered by the Attribute Provider, which hosts the attribute, in the Discovery Service. The Discovery Service publishes the attribute offering. Any Attribute Requestor wanting to share such attribute requests the attribute offering (i.e., the reference to the attribute) from the Discovery Service. The Discovery Service provides the reference to the attribute. In addition, the Attribute Requestor accesses the Attribute Provider with such reference (i.e., the resource offering or attribute offering) to obtain and share the attribute.

In addition, the Applicant's specification discloses a OSA/PARLAY Framework controlling the access to Service Capability Features, which are implemented in a number of Service Capability Servers, from a number from the Application Servicers of a service network (see paragraphs 0015 and 0016 of the Applicant's specification). The Service Capability Features may be regarded as a sort of service-related attributes for a particular user, and thus be considered the user's attributes that can be shared between service providers. The Applications Servers may be regarded as Service Providers requesting the sharing of Service Capability Features (i.e., the sharing of user's attributes).

Blakley discloses a system for managing attribute information at one or more Attribute Information Providers (AIPs). E-commerce service providers (ECSPs) maintain a relationship with an AIP so that the ECSP can trust the attribute information provided by the AIP on behalf of the user. Furthermore, Blakley teaches that the service accesses an ECSP and, where a transaction for the user requires attribute information, the user directs the ECSP to an AIP hosting such attribute information. In addition, Blakley discloses that each ECSP is configured with a number of AIP identifiers to retrieve attribute information of each user.

Blakley fails to simplify the sharing of user attributes by having a conventional Discovery Service Framework in charge of registering and publishing an attribute offering. In particular, Blakley does not disclose an Attribute Provider registering an offering registration trigger in the Discovery Service Framework, receiving by the Attribute Provider from the Discovery Service Framework a request for registration of

the attribute offering, or registering by the Attribute Provider an attribute offering in the Discovery Service Framework.

The Applicant's invention solves the problem of continuous registrations and de-registrations of attribute offerings in the Discovery Service Framework when these attributes or the user's consent to share them changes often. The Applicant's invention solves this problem by the Attribute Provider registering an offering registration trigger in the Discovery Service Framework intended to request, if needed, the further registration of the attribute offering. The Discovery Service Framework processes the offering registration trigger upon request for the attribute offering received from an Attribute Requestor and requesting the registration of the attribute offering to the Attribute Provider as a result of processing the offering registration trigger. The Attribute Provider registers the attribute offering in the Discovery Service Framework and provides the attribute offering of the Attribute Requestor which requested the attribute offering.

Furthermore, the Applicant's invention utilizes an offering registration trigger which includes a minimum set of indications to request the registration of an attribute offering. The Discovery Service Framework only needs this information to request the Attribute Provider the further registration of the attribute offering, once such attribute offering has been requested by an Attribute Requestor, thereby avoiding continuous registration and de-registration of attributes which might be utilized infrequently.

The Examiner stated that the Attribute Provider registration is equivalent to authentication of data which triggers the process for the requested attributes as disclosed in Blakley. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The authentication procedure disclosed in Blakley is a completely independent procedure to validate the user and is not related to sharing of attributes. Furthermore, the Examiner stated that Blakley discloses the Attribute Provider registering an attribute offering in the Discovery Service Framework. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated above, Blakley does not even disclose the Discovery Service Framework, therefore, there is no disclosure of this element.

Blakely fails to disclose a Discovery Service Framework or the steps of: the Attribute Provider registering an offering registration trigger in the Discovery Service Framework intended to request, if needed, the registration of the attribute offering; the Attribute Provider receiving from the Discovery Service Framework a request for registration of the attribute offering; and the Attribute Provider registering an attribute offering in the Discovery Service Framework. Therefore, Blakley does not anticipate claim 1. Similarly, independent claims 9, 16, and 24 contain analogous novel limitations. Therefore, those claims are also not anticipated by Blakley. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 10-12 and 14 depend from claim 9 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 9. Claims 17-22 depend from claim 16 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Claims 25-27 and 30-32 depend from claim 24 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 24. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-6, 9-12, 14, 16-22, 24-27, and 30-32 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 7, 8, 13, 15, 20, 23, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blakley in view of Underwood (US 6,633,878), hereinafter referred to as Underwood. In response, the Applicant traverses the rejection.

As discussed above, Blakely fails to disclose a Discovery Service Framework or the steps of: the Attribute Provider registering an offering registration trigger in the Discovery Service Framework intended to request, if needed, the registration of the attribute offering; the Attribute Provider receiving from the Discovery Service Framework a request for registration of the attribute offering; and the Attribute Provider registering an attribute offering in the Discovery Service Framework. The addition of Underwood does not make up the missing elements. Therefore, the combination of Blakley and Underwood does not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 13 and 15 depend from claim 9 and recite further
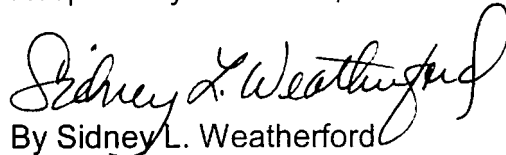
limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 9. Claims 20 and 23 depend from claim 16 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 24 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 24. Therefore, the allowance of claims 7, 8, 13, 15, 20, 23, 28, and 29 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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